

RIC 2003

Fire Protection, Session T10

Advances in Fire Modeling and Fire PRA

Scott Newberry

**Director
Division of Risk Analysis and Applications
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

April 17, 2003



Fire Risk Research Exemplifies RES Mission

■ RES mission

- Provide technical advice, technical tools, and information for identifying and resolving safety issues, making regulatory decisions, and promulgating regulations and guidance.

■ Agency PRA policy statement

- PRA technology should be increased in all regulatory matters to the extent supported by state-of-art in PRA methods and data in a manner that complements the NRC's deterministic approach and supports NRC's traditional defense-in-depth philosophy.

■ Fire risk research

- Fire risk can be important (from IPEEEs)
- Acquire better understanding of how important



Fire PRA Activities

- Circuit Analysis
 - Participated in testing with nuclear industry
 - Developed better data and understanding
- Detection and Suppression
 - Utilized updated data base
 - Developed probability distributions which distinguish between fire area and suppression means
- Planned improvements across field
 - HRA analysis will rely more closely on plant conditions
 - Further clarify early fire effects



Fire Modeling Activities

- Fire modeling supports fire PRA and other performance based activities
- Identifying limitations/applicability of fire model classes
 - Empirical correlations
 - Zone
 - Computational fluid dynamics
- Understanding uncertainty
 - Parameter (e.g. heat release rate)
 - Modeling
- Validation and model improvement (long term)



RES Support of Fire Protection Regulatory Activities

- Associated circuits inspection
- Fire protection SDP
- Risk informed, performance based rulemaking (NFPA 805)
- Manual actions rulemaking
- ANS fire risk standard (full power)

